

Kidspiration Sorts

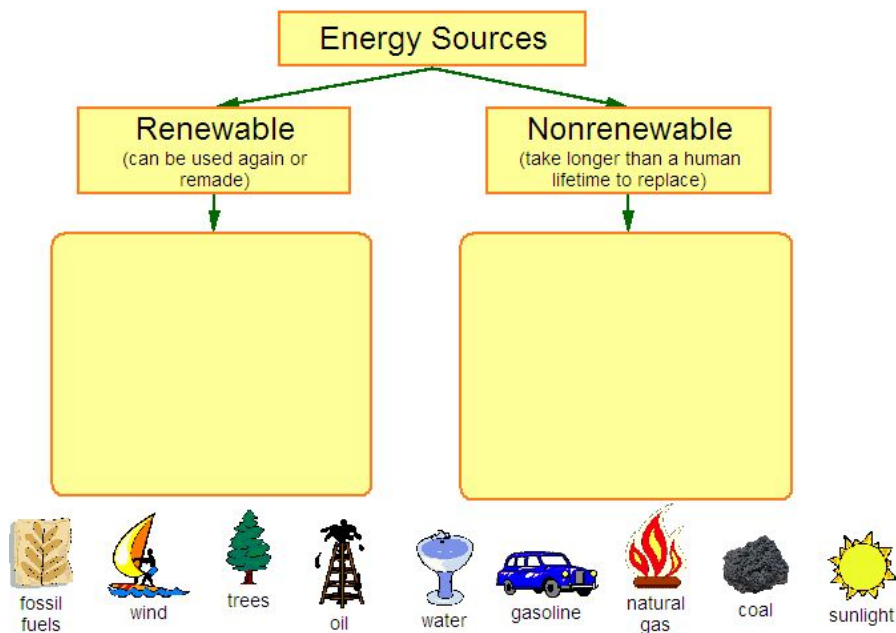
Kidspiration sorts are a great, easy way to create sorts on practically any topic. Kidspiration lends itself to many other activities as well. Sorts are just a great way to get started.

Use the sorts for pre/post assessments, lesson introductions— inquiry lessons where kids create their own definitions or key concepts, discussion lessons—whole class or small group, review centers or individual practice reviewing a concept.

You can also have your students create their own Kidspiration sorts for each other or the rest of the class. You set up the template, locking in the sort-to-boxes; then let the students choose the pictures they'll sort!

Below is a typical sort...

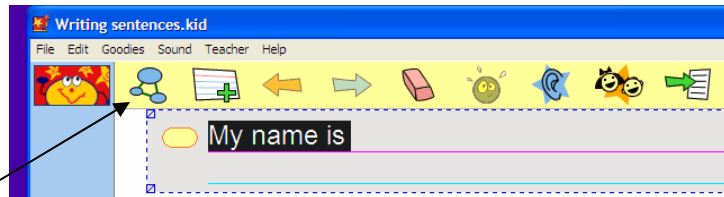
Sort the pictures below under renewable or nonrenewable resources.



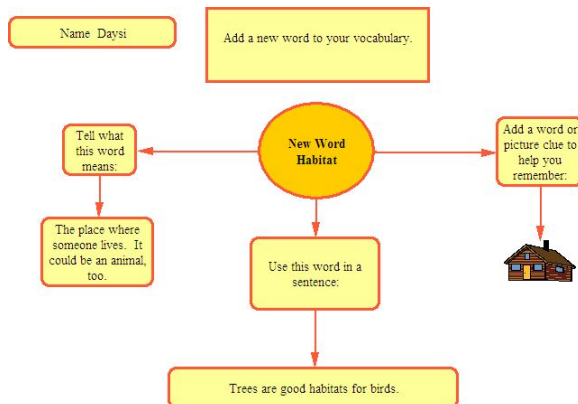
Kidspiration has one nice feature...

On the tool bar, the icon with the pencil and paper, allows you to switch between the picture mode and the writing mode.

Anything typed in one mode will automatically appear in the other. When you're in the writing mode, the tool that takes you back to pictures looks like this.



The 2 layouts are below.

A screenshot of the 'New Word Habitat' form. It has a title bar 'New Word' and a subtitle 'habitar'. Below the title bar are several input fields: 'Tell what this word means:', 'A habitat is the place where a person or animal lives.', 'Use this word in a sentence:', 'Birds like to live in forests where there are lots of trees, so a forest is the habitat for birds.', 'Add a word or picture clue to help you remember:', and a field with a house icon and the word 'house'.

The children may enter information into either layout.

NETS (National Education Technology Standards) addressed using Kidspirations...

1. Basic operations and concepts
 - 🖱 Students demonstrate a sound understanding of the nature and operation of technology systems
 - 🖱 Students are proficient in the use of technology
2. Social, ethical, and human issues
 - 🖱 Students practice responsible use of technology systems, information, and software
 - 🖱 Students develop positive attitudes toward technology uses that support lifelong learning, collaboration, personal pursuits, and productivity
3. Technology productivity tools
 - 🖱 Students use technology tools to enhance learning, increase productivity, and promote creativity
 - 🖱 Students use productivity tools to collaborate in constructing technology-enhanced models, prepare publications, and produce other creative works
4. Technology communications tools
 - 🖱 Students use telecommunications to collaborate, publish, and interact with peers, experts, and other audiences
 - 🖱 Students use a variety of media and formats to communicate information and ideas effectively to multiple audiences
5. Technology research tools
 - 🖱 Students use technology to locate, evaluate, and collect information from a variety of sources
 - 🖱 Students use technology tools to process data and report results
6. Technology problem-solving and decision-making tools
 - 🖱 Students use technology resources for solving problems and making informed decisions
 - 🖱 Students employ technology in the development of strategies for solving problems in the real world

MAKE YOUR OWN KIDSPIRATION OR INSPIRATION!

by Caryn Shaffer shaffeca@pwcs.edu and Beth Mears mearsba@pwcs.edu

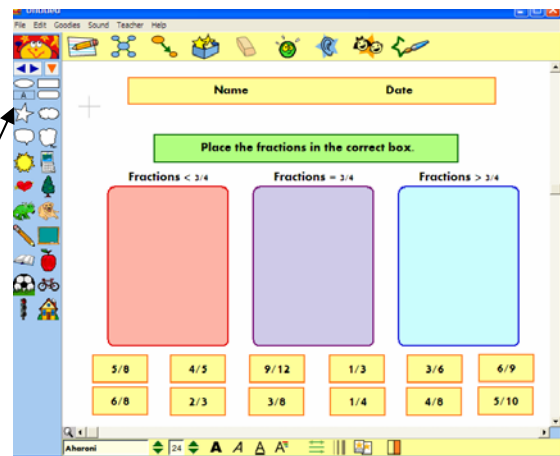
Easy steps to your own creation...

1. Open the program and take a moment to explore the readymade activities. You may find the perfect template already built, or get a great idea!
2. Use one of the templates and align it to your activity, or choose from the New category.



3. Design your sort...
For this one, I used a template from the "More" section. I changed the directions and deleted extra boxes from the 3 large rectangles.

If you start from scratch, just click on the boxes you want from the panel on the left. Use the tools and menus to complete your project. Explore and create.



4. A few helpful tricks to know...
Use the Teacher menu (at the top) when you're all finished. Click Enable Teacher Menu. You may add a password if you like. Then hold down the shift key and select each box you do not want the students to be able to move around. When all are selected, choose Locked Item from the Teacher Menu.
5. If you want to change fonts, add arrows, change box colors, use the toolbar across the bottom of the screen.

*****Note: If you don't see the pictures you want in the picture panels, you can also pull pictures from the Internet. An example is in the lesson called, "Which War?" for fourth grade.

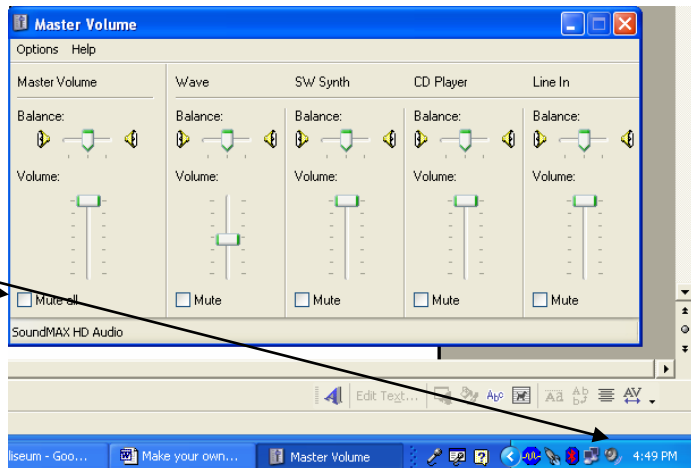
6. Before printing, have your students click on this icon to put their names on their papers.



Adding Sound (provide for differentiation: meet the needs of ESOL students and special needs children)

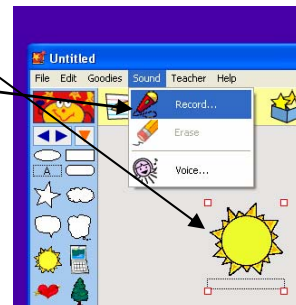
1. Create your activity using Kidspiration

Make sure your volume controls are all turned all the way up by double clicking the speaker beside the clock—lower right on desktop. Make sure nothing is muted. Plug in your microphone.



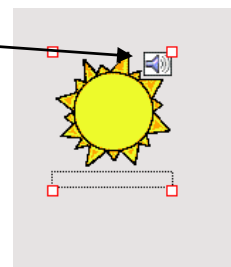
2. Back in Kidspiration, select the item in your activity you want to add sound to. (If you click it once it will have 4 boxes around it. That's a selected item.)

3. Go to the Sound Menu at the top and choose record,



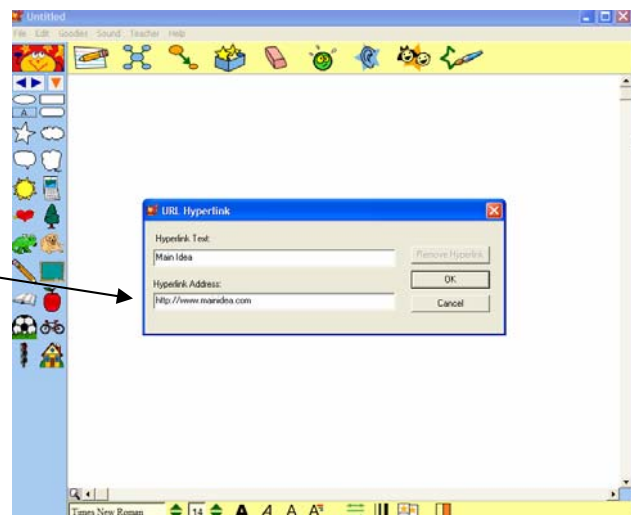
4. Click the red circle to start recording. When finished recording, click save or stop. If you don't like it, just re-record by hitting the red circle again. Be sure to hit save when finished.

5. The students will click on the mini-speaker to listen to your recording.



Use Kidspiration to set up Internet access learning centers for your classroom

1. Open the program and choose pictures for your groups (red birds, blue birds, etc.)
2. Type the focus under the pictures (Comprehension, Contractions, etc.)
3. Go to your favorite learning website or www.portaportal.com (enter Guest Access, Guest Name: westgate) and choose a website you like. Copy the website URL.
4. Go back to Kidspiration and highlight the focus word you typed under a picture.
5. Go to Teacher menu and choose URL hyperlink...
6. In the next window, paste the URL you just copied, click OK
7. Test the link to be sure it works



Helpful Websites

If you're looking for educational sites for kids to use at centers, try <http://guest.portaportal.com/westgate> This one has lots of sites!

Or, try this one for all grade levels, Math and Language arts topics. Just click the purple arrows at the top of the page to move through the grade levels. <http://www.internet4classrooms.com/month2month.htm>

For more ideas for using Marzano's approach to learning, try this website. Marzano is recognized internationally for his learning strategies that REALLY work. <http://gets.gc.k12.va.us/VSTE/2008/>